

OSP to increase patrols Memorial Day Weekend

Motorists who choose to drive impaired, not use their safety restraints, drive distracted or make other dangerous driving decisions should expect to draw the attention of law enforcement officers statewide during the 2015 Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers, county sheriffs and local police officers will step up enforcement efforts, now through May 31, to help save lives by cracking down on traffic violators.

The increased enforcement efforts, part of the national

“Click It or Ticket” campaign, cover the Memorial Day holiday period, which begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 22, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 25.

The focus will be on ensuring passengers are properly buckled up; child passengers are in the right restraint system; and impaired drivers are removed from the road.

Oregon safety restraint law requires the following:

- Child passengers weighing less than forty pounds must be restrained in a child seat.
- Children under one year or

weighing less than 20 pounds must be restrained in a rear-facing child seat.

• A child over forty pounds must be restrained in either a child seat or a booster seat appropriate for the child’s size until he/she reaches age eight or 4’9” tall and the adult belt system fits properly.

• Best practice (but not Oregon law): Children age 12 and under should sit in the back seat due to airbag dangers.

Key Safety Restraint Facts for Oregon:

- Oregon leads the nation with highest reported seatbelt

use: 98.18 percent. NHTSA estimates 175 people were saved in Oregon during 2013 because they were buckled up.

• OSP, sheriffs and local police will be working day and night to increase proper safety belt and child car seat use during a statewide traffic enforcement “blitz” from May 18 through May 31.

• Child car seats reduce the likelihood of infants under 1 year old being killed in a crash by 71 percent and the fatal risk for toddlers aged 1 to 4 by 54 percent, and 58 and 59 percent for infants and toddlers in SUVs, pickups and vans.

Boosters reduce the risk of serious injury for four to eight year olds by 45 percent.

• Get rested before you are tested. Fatigued drivers are more frequent during holiday weekends because of increased travel and activity. Be patient and allow plenty of time to reach your destination.

• Pay attention. An inattentive driver is a growing safety concern on our roads and an increasing factor in traffic crashes.

• Know before you go: Stay up to date on road conditions by visiting TripCheck.com or calling 5-1-1.

• Even when workers are not present, all work zone speed limits still apply and fines double. Inactive work zones still have equipment, detours, and incomplete changes in the roadway so drivers need to slow

down and be alert.

• Share the road. Don’t tailgate and check your mirrors and blind spots before changing lanes.

• Be on the lookout for bicyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable users of our roads.

• Always use safety restraints and child safety seats correctly

• Don’t drink and drive; don’t be impaired and drive. These can be deadly combinations.

• Move over if you are approaching any type of emergency vehicle, tow truck or roadside assistance vehicle which is stopped on the roadside with emergency lights activated.

Do your part and volunteer today to help support these local non-profit organizations in our community!



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Friends of Library seeking volunteers

Those living in or near Florence and Mapleton have a popular public library that meets the many needs of its diverse population.

The Friends of the Siuslaw Public Library is seeking help in meeting its goal of supporting the Siuslaw Public Library.

To achieve those goals, volunteers are needed in the following areas:

- Join the Friends of the Library (FOL). There is a great need for volunteers to work on the Friends’ many projects, such as book sorting, book sales activities, greeting card creation, membership recruiting and data management,

newsletter creation, publicity generation, website maintenance and other special projects, such as last year’s Literary Basket project.

Funds generated by the Friends’ many projects are used to support the library. As an example, revenues from 2004 book sales totaled \$8,100.

• Donate pre-read (used) books. Both fiction and non-fiction books are always in demand and may be brought to the library on Ninth Street.

Fiction books include mysteries, literary novels, science fiction, fantasy, crime fiction, romance, adventure and many

other categories.

Non-fiction includes biographies and autobiographies, art books, cook books, reference books, gardening, pets and pet care, health, economics, politics, how-to books, travel guides, history, sports and more.

Both hard back and soft cover books are welcome.

Information about FOL, including membership information, can be found online at www.siuslawlibrary.org.

Click on the Friends of the Library link. You can also contact the Library Friends at www.SiuslawLibraryFriends@gmail.com.

Drivers needed for Senior Connections

Drive your own vehicle to take Florence Senior Citizens who otherwise have no transportation to their medical appointments in Florence, Eugene, Springfield, Coos Bay and North Bend.

Mileage is reimbursed at

.405 cents per mile. This reimbursement is not taxable and does not interfere with OHP or Food Stamp determination.

The hours are typically weekdays. Drivers decide which days and hours they are willing to help and can accept

or decline rides any time.

Drivers will not be asked to transport people during dangerous road conditions.

If interested in volunteering, contact Kristine Sirmans, Florence Senior Connections, at 541-902-9430 ext. 7830.



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